

tors, theologians and D. D's until you have fairly and fully tried them by the *standard* text book which is the good old "Bible" in which it is emphatically declared that God cannot lie.

4. Always study the BOOK of BOOKS the BIBLE, so as to harmonize its teachings, and never try to make them conflict.

5. Always understand the teachings of the Bible literally where you can make proper literal or *spiritual applications*, and where the teachings of the same require a literal observance on your part never expect to realize the Spiritual until you discharge your duty to God in such observance.

By accepting the Holy Bible as emanating from the triune God and thus striving to get a proper knowledge of the same and then strive to live the great and grand principles taught therein as we would strive to save our lives from destruction. We may all have fellowship with the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. May grace, mercy and truth be multiplied through a proper study, conception, observance and appropriating the blessing of the same to ourselves in order to our present sanctification of spirit, and soul, and body, and our eternal enjoyment in the abode of, and with all the Redeemed of God.

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HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE.—NO. 7.

To study the Bible profitably the first requisite is to *desire* to be profited, and with that desire comes the spirit of Him whose word it contains. This doctrine is embodied in the declaration that "He that will do my will *shall know* of the doctrine." The study of the Bible from a *sense of duty* will not profit the reader as much as to read it for the exquisite *pleasure* which comes from the reading. Both impulses, however, should actuate the reading, but the latter should be the leading one.

To read it for information on the subject of its ancient history will benefit one in the same sense and to the same degree as to read any other ancient history.

He who reads it through *denominational* glasses will make a number one bigot and a blind devotee to his religious party, but he will never know anything of the sublime spirit and life of the incarnate Master.

They who employ a proxy to read it for them, a priest or a clergyman, will not get "the sincere milk of the word." Skim milk, dangerously blue, will be the ration served up to them. Like the devout

Irishman, the best way is to "milk the cow yourself."

The Bible should be read by subjects, not by note, which is the conventional way. To read the Bible through so many times a year will not bring the profit that reading a half dozen subjects thoroughly will. Suppose, for instance, you would read the Bible through a half a dozen times in a year, and your sister would read a half dozen subjects as many times, which, think you, would have a better knowledge of its contents.

Addicting one's self to studying a chapter at the close of each day is a successful method of dissipating the feeling of wrong and vexation that comes from contact with the world.

The Epistles should be read as a whole, and studied in the light of the circumstances that called them forth. If we receive a letter from a valued friend we do not read one page and then lay it away till another time.

When we study the Bible we should not expect to understand it in all its depths. We will see one meaning at one reading, and another at the next reading, and so on till the utmost bounds of divine wisdom are reached. What we cannot understand must be accepted by faith. The Old Testament is a valued introduction to the New. In the records of the lives of its eminent men and women there exists most important lessons to teach us the mind and purposes of God. There is scarcely a vice or virtue which is not illustrated in the biography of the Old Testament.

The history of the Israelites is a graphic forecast of the history of the Christian. It touches his life at every vital point. So St. Paul teaches in Heb. 11, and the first verse of 12. The Bible should be studied in a devout, prayerful mood. Not with that Monkish spirit that prompts certain people to read it in a kneeling posture. That is pedantic.

To study the Bible as a text book, as it is taught in technical schools, will equip one to teach its doctrines in the regulation style, just as the study of the text books on law will prepare a person to practice the profession of law successfully. This explains the seeming paradox that is presented in the fact that the world's most successful evangelists have come from the farms and shops instead of the halls of learning.

The theological schools will equip their students with intellectual, but not with spiritual weapons. All of the great leaders of religious movements whom God has chosen, and whose lives constitute the history of the Bible, have been taken from

fields of bodily, instead of intellectual activity. This is not intended as an argument against intellectual development or against theological schools, but rather against irrational dependence on human agencies.

Lastly, it should be read as the only book which is absolutely true in every part, in its history, biography, prophecy, whether fulfilled or unfulfilled in its doctrine in its application of those doctrines, its promises and threatenings, its portrayal of human nature, and revelation of the divine nature.

It is the only book that tells the story of our origin, history, and destiny. It is the only book that comforts the dying, and sweetens the cup of the living. When the healthy-minded Sir Walter Scott lay on his dying couch he asked an attendant to read something. "What shall I read," he asked. "There is only one book, he replied, that meets the wants of an hour like this, and that is the Bible."

May God's blessed word be dear and precious to us all, and a means of grace to bring all home at last.

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CALIFORNIA.

H. M. LICHTY.

To the readers of the EVANGELIST I wish to say that we have completed the investigations in California for a colony site. Of the thoroughness with which this has been done others will speak, but allow me here to say that the projectors of this enterprise have been pushing their investigations not only for months but for years. Colorado and the South were visited and the great North West was not overlooked. But for nearly a year the location has centered on the "heart of California." Some months ago a proposition was made through the EVANGELIST to form a committee on investigations to consist of not less than three competent brethren of the east to cooperate with the California brethren in such an investigation, the expenses to be borne jointly. The proposition met with approval but there was difficulty in getting the plan organized on account of those interested being unable to get together for this purpose. But on account of the interest manifested I concluded to go personally and meet our California people who are much interested in getting Eastern people to come and locate among them.

After a few weeks of careful inspection of the soil and special inquiry from our brethren and others who have resided here for 20 to 30 years I became very well satisfied that the opportunities offered here for Eastern people to improve their con-